

Nevada Well Driller's Annual Newsletter

June 2009



Message from Jason King, P.E., Acting State Engineer

Although the past year has witnessed a slow-down in the economy, the number of water right applications being filed has not slowed down nor has any less attention been given to the various water projects throughout the state. There is no changing the fact that water resources in Nevada are reaching critical mass. Since Nevada is the driest state in the nation and was the fastest growing state in the nation for 21 of the past 23 years, water is a critical issue that is consequently very contentious.

Fortunately for Nevada, there are a great number of concerned, qualified and conscientious professionals working in the field of water resources – all of you included. However, just because we have so many dedicated professionals working in the field of water resources, does not mean there is more water in the aquifers or stream beds. What it does mean though is that through all of your work and the work of your colleagues, collectively we can stretch every drop of water in the state so as to maximize its beneficial use and ensure good water quality.

The Division of Water Resources' mantra is *"If we don't protect the water resource, no one else will"*. In my mind, the *"we"* portion of that statement includes all of you and I hope you think of Nevada's water resources in that way. It is easy to lose sight of the critical importance of protecting the resource in the face of the various pressures put on you by your clients. But it is also very important to realize that your profession makes you part of arguably the most important profession in Nevada – that of being responsible for the development, protection and enhancement of our most precious resource – WATER.

While I take this time to thank you all for your hard work and dedication over the years, I have to stress that now is not the time to rest on our laurels. Nothing is getting easier when it comes to water in Nevada. I challenge all of you to *"do right"* by the resource when making your decisions. It is all of our responsibility to protect and enhance the use of our limited water resources.



In Memory of Robert Thompson

It is with great sadness that we report the loss of a good friend and long time NDWR employee Robert "Bob" E. Thompson. Bob will always be remembered for his sharp wit and great sense of humor. From his many years with REECo and as an independent contractor at the Nevada Test Site, and from his years as a school teacher and basketball coach back in Illinois, he shared his depth of experience with all staff and the public he served. With the State Engineer's Office, Bob improved the management of the subdivision review process, streamlined the well driller license testing and contributed greatly to two major revisions of the Nevada well drilling regulation. Bob was enjoying his retirement at his home in Las Vegas and loved to keep in touch with folks in the office there and with the occasional visitors from Carson City.

This 2009 Nevada Licensed Well Driller Newsletter is therefore dedicated to him. A memorial mass will be held in celebration of Bob's life at St. Anne Catholic Church, 1901 South Maryland Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada 89104, at 11:30 a.m., Saturday, June 6, 2009. Our hearts go out to his wife and family. Bob Thompson made a difference in the lives of all that he met.

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Contact Directory

Carson City Office

Division of Water Resources
901 S. Stewart St., Suite 2002
Carson City, NV 89701

Southern Nevada Office

Division of Water Resources
400 Shadow Lane
Suite 201
Las Vegas, NV 89106

Water Well & Drilling

Questions

Carson City Office

Tim Hunt (775) 684-2800
Joseph Di Tucci

Southern Nevada Office

Tracy Geter (702) 486-2770
Steven Martinez

Drillers License, Exam and Continuing Education

Questions

Carson City Office

Joseph Di Tucci (775) 684-2800
Sue Gilbert

Southern Nevada Office

Tracy Geter (702) 486-2770

Other Useful Contacts

Division of Environmental Protection

Carson City Office

Jeryl Gardner, P.E., C.E.M (775) 687-9423

Nevada State Contractors Board

Henderson Office

(702) 486-1100

Reno Office

(775) 688-1141

Upcoming Exam Dates

Las Vegas Well Drillers Exam Dates

Thursday August 13, 2009
Friday November 13, 2009

Carson City Well Drillers Exam Date

Friday August 14, 2009
Thursday November 12, 2009

The Well Drillers Exam consists of three parts:

- 1.) A written examination to determine the applicant's knowledge of the rules and regulations for drilling wells in the State of Nevada. (70 % score to Pass.)
- 2.) Identification of a well location on a topographic map by full legal description. (Pass or Fail.)
- 3.) An oral interview by the Statewide Well Driller's Advisory Board regarding the applicant's experience and knowledge of general drilling practices. (Board makes recommendation.)

There is limited seating at each examination. It is essential that each applicant appear for the scheduled exam date. Notices for the exam are sent out four weeks in advance, and it is up to the individual and their employer to schedule vacations, work load or other necessities around the scheduled exam date.

Companies that have employees scheduled for the examination must make the necessary provisions for their employees to take the time to prepare for and pass the examination.

What is a carryover CEU?

A carryover continuing education credit is (CEU) the remaining approved continuing education credit (s) that will be forwarded to the next renewal period. Eight (8) credits are due for a well driller's annual renewal. If more than eight credits are submitted, half of the balance gets transferred and can be carried over. Examples:

- A. 12 credits were submitted but only 11 credits are approved, 8 credits will be used towards the renewal and the carry over credit will be 3.
- B. 24 credits were submitted and all are approved, 8 will be used towards the renewal and the maximum of 4 will be carried over, for the next renewal.
- C. A well driller has 2 carryover credits and submits 7 approved credits giving them a total of 9 credits, 8 will be used towards the renewal and 1 credit will be carried over for the next renewal.

During the renewal, each certificate, report and all CEU documentation is reviewed by our staff to see if it meets the requirements of continuing education to be applied toward a Nevada Well Driller's License.

This current renewal period for 2008 - 2009 is when a licensed Nevada well driller is required to obtain two (2) hours of the Nevada Regulation Workshop, this will be applied to the eight (8) CEU's needed for the renewal year. This is an every-other-year requirement.

CEU's must be earned during the renewal period July 1, 2008, through June 30, 2009, in order to be applied toward the well driller's renewal.

Visit Our Web Page At
water.nv.gov



Division of Water Resources

Examination Results Report July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2009

WELL DRILLERS EXAMINATION

Exam Dates and Locations	Notification Letters Sent	Total Exams Given	Canceled Exam Timely	Failure to notify of Cancellation (Ruling)	Re-scheduled	License Issued	Denied by Ruling	% of Licenses Issued to Total Exams Given	% of Rescheduled Applicants to Notification Letters sent
Las Vegas 8/14/2008	15	11	1	4	8	3	4	27%	53%
Carson City 8/15/2008	14	12	1	2	9	3	2	25%	64%
Carson City 11/13/2008	18	13	0	4	6	7	4	54%	33%
Las Vegas 11/14/2008	15	10	4	1	3	7	2	70%	20%
Carson City 2/5/2009	14	10	1	4	4	5	4	50%	29%
Las Vegas 2/6/2009	10	7	1	2	3	3	3	43%	30%
Carson City 5/7/2009	6	6	0	0	2	2	0	33%	33%
Las Vegas 5/8/2009	8	8	0	0	7	1	0	13%	88%
Year End Total	100	77	8	17	42	31	19	40%	42%

Note: In May 2009 three (3) applicants did not receive their licenses after passing the exam due to missing references.

**Statewide Well Driller's Advisory Board Members**

Advisory Board Member's Name	License Number	Company	Location
Roger Thrall	1132	Aqua Drilling Company	Reno, NV
Fred B. Allen III	1301	Allen Drilling, Inc.	Las Vegas, NV
Layne Harris	1698	Eklund Drilling Co., Inc.	Elko, NV
Daniel Kohlman	2193	Boart Longyear Drilling Service	Elko, NV
Andy Andresen (alternate)	1028	Andresen Exploration Drilling	Reno, NV

**What's new on the well driller's web site
Carryover Continuing Education Units**

The 2009 – 2010 renewal period for a Nevada Well Driller's License will see a new feature added to the Nevada Division of Water Resources web site. It will be located under Engineering (Well Driller's Licensing and Compliance) on the left side of the web page. The new feature will allow the well driller to access the number of carryover Continuing Education Units (CEU's) available to them from the previous year at any time of the day. The well driller should be able to access this feature by June of 2009.

All active well drillers will be included. Searching will be done by highlighting the license number column and using the find feature available in the database.

Well Driller's License Application References

One of the requirements for obtaining a Nevada Well Driller's License is that four references must be on file in the State Engineer's Office before the license can be issued. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide four references when the application is submitted, per NAC 534.282 (1) (f). The correct address for each reference is crucial, because the Division of Water Resources mails a reference form and a return envelope to each person supplied on an application. If the reference information on an application is incomplete, that application will be returned for more information.

When an applicant passes the exam, the Division of Water Resources issues the license, however; the only cause for delay would be if all four reference letters were not timely received. If they are not received before the test date and a well driller passes the examination, the Well Driller's Advisory Board will not grant a license to the applicant without reviewing the reference letters, since what is provided in the reference letters is part of the information considered by the Advisory Board to determine the qualifications of an applicant. The Well Driller's Advisory Board will continue with their oral interview, but defer the decision of issuing a license to the State Engineer in this instance.

It is the applicant's responsibility to inform the individuals used as a reference to provide the information to the Division of Water Resources as soon as possible. The Division of Water Resources is committed to having as many applicants as possible obtain a Well Driller's License, but if the reference letters are not submitted prior to the test date and the applicant passes the examination the issuance of a license could in some instances be delayed by days or weeks. So please be a little more responsible and get the reference letters in to the Division of Water Resources before your scheduled test date, and remember, you must possess a valid license prior to drilling in Nevada.

ON-LINE CEU CLASSES

When obtaining continuing education units for your renewal, there are several on-line classes available that can help you earn CEU's as required per NAC 534.2927. The Division of Water Resources has reviewed and approved three individual on-line well drilling schools; all are very informative and educational. Please see listings below:

On Line Well Drilling School - <http://welldrillingschool.com>

Red Vector - www.redvector.com

All Star Professional Training, Inc. - www.allstarce.com

DUE TO THE LIMITED SEATING AT EACH EXAMINATION IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE APPLICANT AND/OR HIS EMPLOYER TO ALLOW THE APPLICANT SUFFICIENT TIME TO PREPARE FOR THE EXAMINATION. WHEN AN APPLICANT HAS BEEN SCHEDULED FOR AN EXAM, THE APPLICANT AND/OR THE APPLICANT'S EMPLOYER SHALL MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ATTEND THE EXAMS BY SCHEDULING VACATIONS

Well Drillers Licensed in the State of Nevada

The Statewide Well Driller's Advisory Board recommended to the State Engineer that licenses for 28 new well drillers be approved in 2008-2009 (listed below). As of May 2008, there were a total of 401 licensed well drillers in the State of Nevada.

In the previous year, 2007-2008, there were 24 newly licensed well drillers and a total of 414 licensed drillers in the State of Nevada.

All are licensed as water well drillers and some are restricted to certain types of work, e.g., M = monitor wells, ABDS = shallow dewater wells, R&P = plugging and recondition

Driller's Name	License Number
Clay Fertig	2367
William Templeton	2368
Steven Bejcek	2369
Christopher Vankeuren	2370
Jeffery W. Cothron	M-2371
Alexander Segura Sr.	P-LTD-2372
Teddy Nichols	2373
Thurland Simkins	2374
Robert Buckner	2375
Brandon Pelcher	2376
William Zamow	M-2377
David Messina	M-LTD-2378
Cole Gardner	2379
Nocholas Owens	2380

Driller's Name	License Number
Dennis Mitchell	2381
Jonathan Jessop	2382
Joel Nalley	2383
Shawn Mikelson	2384
Gary McCoy	2385
Joshus Donison	2386
Darin Minden	2387
Shawn Adams	ABDS-2388
Roderick Eastor	LTD-2389
Adam Percifield	2390
Martin Quinones	2391
Kelin L. Jensen	2392
Samuel Gilmore	2393
Samuel Foco	2394

There were eight Notice of Violation letters sent out in the past year and of those five provided satisfactory responses to prevent assessment of demerits.

Two licensed drillers were assessed demerits:

Scott Chitwood (Lic. # 1533) was assessed forty (40) demerits.

Gabe King (Lic. # 2285) was assessed fifty (50) demerits.

There is currently 1 additional driller that has demerits pending final determination by this office.



Southern Nevada Branch News

NOTICE OF INTENT CARDS:

If a driller omits or provides invalid information on the Notice of Intent Cards (NOI), the Division will submit an NOI rejection letter listing what needs to be corrected. Please note that well drilling must not begin until after the Division approves the corrected NOI to drill card [NAC 534.320(5)].

If a well is to be drilled, plugged or reconditioned in a township south of the Mount Diablo Baseline, the NOI should be mailed to the Las Vegas Office [NAC 534.320 (8)]. If your cards are sent to the Carson City office, it takes longer to have the NOI cards sent to the Las Vegas Office to review and approve.

If a project has been put on hold by your client and the NOI card has already been filed, please note that this card is only valid for 60 days. If the project starts after the 60 day timeframe, a new NOI card must be submitted to our office prior to drilling the well [NAC 534.325(1)].

AFFIDAVIT OF INTENT TO ABANDON FORMS:

Prior to the installation of construction, dewatering or monitor wells, a notarized affidavit (with the original signature) must be submitted to our office [(NAC 534.4353(3))].

ISSUING WAIVERS:

The Division receives waiver requests for various situations. Please realize that field investigations may be conducted to assess any issue(s) a driller may have, prior to authorizing the waiver. Our Southern Nevada Branch Office tries to issue waivers within five (5) working days from the receipt of the waiver request.

MONITOR WELL "WAIVER" CONFUSION:

When requesting a waiver for a monitor well, the waiver will bear a unique number proceeded by the letters "MO". This waiver is for monitor well installation that has not been requested by a local government or federal agency (has no Facility ID No. associated with the project).

When requesting a waiver for a monitor well that has a casing diameter larger than four-inches, the waiver will bear a unique number proceeded by the letter "R". This is a regulation waiver, required to "waive" the regulation of installing a monitor well which has a casing diameter for four (4) inches or less.

Questions? How the "Regulations for Water Well and Related Drilling" Handbook can help.

The Nevada "Regulations for Water Well and Related Drilling" was revised and adopted June 2006, a copy is available upon request. In the handbook you can find all kinds of useful information to answer most questions you may have about becoming or continuing to be an active Nevada licensed well driller, the construction or plugging of a well, borehole, waivers and the requirements for compliance.

Located in the front portion of the handbook under the "General Provisions" section, will be the most commonly used terms regarding the Nevada Administrative Codes (NAC) taken from Chapter 534 and Nevada Revised Statutes (NRS) taken from Chapter 534.

Next, will be the section on "License to Drill a Well", NAC 534.280 through 534.298. This section will provide information on how to submit an application, obtaining a temporary well drillers license and the procedures of the examination. Also, once you are licensed, this section provides you with the renewal process and continuing education requirements. If a well driller has an expired, suspended or revoked license, NAC 534.293 explains the requirements to obtain a valid license.

"Duties of Well Drillers", NAC 534.300 talks about designated and nondesignated basins, domestic well use, the paper work and forms that are required to be completed before and after drilling a well and the responsibilities of a licensed well driller at a drilling site.

For the most part, questions regarding the drilling, construction and plugging of wells or boreholes can be found in the fourth section of the regulation handbook, from thermoplastic casing, prevention of contamination, seals, location of a well to the general requirements of plugging a well.

The next section of the handbook covers waivers. Waivers can be issued for many different reasons, for instance; a waiver to drill an exploratory well (aka W-waiver). This type of waiver is used to determine quality or quantity of water in a designated basin or water to use for the exploration of minerals. There are also water use waivers and regulation waivers. When a well driller finds that he needs a waiver before starting his project, keep in mind that the forms and paperwork to process a waiver will need to be received, reviewed and approved by our offices (Las Vegas or Carson City) before the drilling or plugging starts.

If a well driller is found in violation of the well drilling regulations, an assessment of demerit points will be applied towards the well driller's license. The enforcement, classifications and demerit system can be found under NAC 534.500.

Of course, if you have any technical questions or just need to get clarification on an issue, our office will provide any assistance you may require.

Please call, or visit one of our office's as walk-in customers are always welcome.